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SSCI Chairman Defends Covert Action Legitimacy

Senator Dave Durenberger, Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, had challenged an academic who described CIA activities as running the gamut from legitimate political analyses "to clearly illegitimate covert operations."

Replying to the "blithe assertion," Sen. Durenberger noted: "Professor Kelman's reference appears to be to covert action operations (more properly called 'special activities') which are in fact undertaken pursuant to Presidential findings required by statute and executive order (22 U.S.C. 2422 and section 3.1 of Executive Order 12333), and which are notified to the Legislative Branch under the Congressional oversight provisions in title V of the National Security Act (50 U.S.C. 413). The Congress, moreover, annually authorizes and appropriates funds for our nation's intelligence activities, including special activities."

Durenberger observed that "Everyone is entitled to oppose any or all intelligence activities. The fact that Professor Kelman may not like certain kinds of operations does not, however, make them illegitimate."

In another press statement, however, Sen. Durenberger was not as enthusiastic about the intelligence process. According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the intelligence committee chairman has said he places little stock in any of the intelligence issuing from Central America. "I'm never satisfied with the intelligence I get," he was quoted. "I don't trust our own agencies."
